

**CHARLESTON COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA'S
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
POLICY
CONSISTING OF
EAS PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN
COUNTY CABLE TELEVISION
REGULATORY ORDINANCE
AND
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDE
PROMULGATED BY
XXXX**

Preface: On December 5, 2000, Charleston County, South Carolina enacted a comprehensive County Cable Television Regulatory Ordinance, which contained provisions (Section 19.5-250) concerning Emergency Alert Service. The provisions, conditions, and requirements contained in Section 19.5-250 of the County Cable Television Regulatory Ordinance exceed, in some instances, the provisions, conditions, and requirements contained in Section 11 of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Rules concerning Emergency Alert Service. Subsequent to the enactment of the County's Cable Television Regulatory Ordinance, including Section 19.5-250 on EAS, the County's Emergency Preparedness Department promulgated an EAS Standard Operating Guide (SOG). It is these two (2) parts, Section 19.5-250 of the County's Cable Television Regulatory Ordinance, and the County's EAS SOG that comprise, and make-up the total EAS Policy for Charleston County, South Carolina. Herewith, are the two components that comprise the County's entire EAS Policy.

*Charleston County's EAS
Standard Operating Guide*

Mission:

Charleston County is prone to natural and man-made disasters that can affect all, or parts, of the County. Charleston County, in cooperation with Comcast Cable (and soon KNOLOGY Cable), has the capability to notify the citizens of Charleston County of impending emergency.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guide (SOG) is to provide a guide for notifying the citizens of Charleston County of any impending emergency, or protective measures that need to be taken, in order to safeguard the public.

Concept of Operations:

- A. Automatic Activation—Comcast Cable (and soon KNOLOGY Cable), in accordance with current and existing FCC regulations, is required to activate the cable override system for severe weather information issued by the National Weather Service, or an Amber Alert issued by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Department (SLED).
- B. Charleston County Activation—the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division (primary), and Charleston County Emergency Management Department (secondary) have been authorized to activate the cable override system for any localized incidents, i.e. any local law enforcement incident deemed necessary to notify the public, hazardous materials incidents with specific instructions for the public, or any other severe weather information not mentioned above.

Responsibilities:

- A. Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division Duty Officer—For life threatening emergencies—the Emergency Management Department (EPD) Duty Officer will activate the

system using the appropriate codes and immediately following will contact the EPD Director to advise of activation.

For non-life threatening emergencies--the Emergency Management Department (EPD) Duty Officer will contact will the EPD Director prior to activation of the system.

- B. Charleston County Sheriff's Office—For any law enforcement related incidents, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office Road Supervisor will notify the Charleston County Sheriff's PIO (Public Information Officer) who will authorize the Communications Manager, or his/her designee, to activate the system using the appropriate codes.

Charleston County, South Carolina
Cable Television Regulatory Ordinance
Section 19.5-250
Emergency Alert Service

- (a) Each cable operator shall install and maintain an operational emergency alert system that meets all the specifications and requirements noted in section 11 of the FCC rules and regulations governing EAS.
- (b) A cable operator shall test the EAS in the manner, and frequency required under section 11 of the FCC rules and regulations governing EAS. To the extent that adjustments and/or repairs immediately, and in any event within 30 calendar days from the date that the triggering test or inspection was conducted.
- (c) In addition to the terms, conditions, provisions, and requirements contained in subsections (a), and (b) of this section, each cable operator shall provide the county (at its designated emergency alter or emergency preparedness center) with an emergency alert override capability in order to permit a designated emergency official of the county interrupt and cablecast county-wide an audio and video message on all channels simultaneously, except for local broadcast channels that do not provide authorization for the same, in the event of an actual, imminent, or pending disaster, public emergency, or catastrophic event. Said emergency official shall have the ability to cablecast an audio and video image for a limited-duration interruption of all channels as set forth above. This limited-duration interruption may be repeated as frequently as deemed necessary by said emergency official. Thereafter, as long as the emergency need exists as determined by said emergency official,

a crawl message will run on all channels, except as noted above, with content as determined by said emergency official, said official may cablecast continuous live audio and video on the county government access channel. Each cable operator shall also make its facilities available during emergency, disaster, or catastrophic event periods upon the request of the designated emergency official.

- (d) In addition to the terms, conditions, provisions, and requirements contained in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, each cable operator shall provide the appropriate state-of-the-art and/or technologically-advanced cable and/or communications lines to the county's designated emergency alert or emergency preparedness center, so that the county will be able [to] conduct an EAS override. In addition, each cable operator shall provide to the county all of the appropriate equipment necessary to cablecast an audio and video message on all channels throughout the county, and to all subscribers of each cable operator. Furthermore, each cable operator shall adequately train employees/officials of the county, so that such county employees/officials may properly use and operate the aforementioned equipment.
- (e) Should the county move the location of its emergency alert or emergency preparedness center, then each cable operator shall be expected to provide, at the new or relocated emergency alert or emergency preparedness center, the emergency alert override capability, and EAS equipment and facilities that are noted in subsections (c) and (d) of this section.